

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A cooker comprising:

a heating chamber having an opening at a front face thereof, the heating chamber in which foods are placed;

a door provided in the opening of the heating chamber;

an external circulation path provided outside the heating chamber;

a suction port that sucks in gas inside the heating chamber, the suction port being provided in an innermost side wall of the heating chamber;

a steam generating unit that generates steam by heating water, and releases the generated steam into the external circulation path;

a single blower provided in the external circulation path, the blower that makes either returns or exhausts the gas sucked in through the suction port return to or from the heating chamber by way of the steam generating unit and sucks the gas out of the heating chamber through the external circulation path to the outside when the door is opened;

a heater that heats the steam generated by the steam generating unit and contained in the gas returned to the heating chamber by the blower so as to turn the steam into superheated steam;

a blowhole through which the superheated steam heated by the heater blows out into the heating chamber;

an exhaust port provided in the external circulation path, the exhaust port through which the gas sucked in through the suction port is exhausted to an outside;

a damper that opens and closes the exhaust port; and

a control unit that controls the blower and the damper so as to open/close the exhaust port in accordance with a movement of the door, such that, during cooking, the damper is in a position to close the exhaust port and the blower operates to return the gas sucked in through the suction port to the heating chamber, and when the door is opened during cooking, the damper is brought into a position to open the exhaust port and the blower operates to exhaust the gas sucked in through the suction port through the exhaust port in the open state

wherein the suction port is provided in an innermost side wall of the heating chamber.

2. (Currently amended) The cooker of claim 1,
wherein the blower is provided ~~in-on~~ an outer surface of the innermost side wall of the heating chamber and in a vicinity of the suction port, and
the steam generating unit is disposed adjacently to the outer surface of the innermost side wall of the heating chamber.

3. (Previously Presented) The cooker of claim 1,
wherein the damper selectively closes the external circulation path and the exhaust port.

4 (Canceled).

5. (Currently amended) The cooker of ~~claim 4~~ claim 1,
wherein, after the damper opens the exhaust port, the control unit continues to operate the blower until a predetermined time period elapses after a sign that the door is being opened is detected.

6. (Currently amended) The cooker of ~~claim 4~~ claim 1,
wherein, after the damper opens the exhaust port, the control unit continues to operate the blower until it is determined that the door is fully opened.

7. (Currently amended) The cooker of ~~claim 4~~ claim 1,
wherein, after the damper opens the exhaust port, the control unit continues to operate the blower until a predetermined time period elapses after it is determined that the door is fully opened.

8 (Canceled).